

Learner Development SIG

Team Reports for the Annual General Meeting

Instructions

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1. Co-coordinators

(Submitted by Mathew Porter & Mayumi Abe)

Write a summary of all of the team reports for submission to the SIG Representative Liaison. These reports are all submitted into the record at the LD SIG's Annual General Meeting, which is held during the JALT international conference.

1. Achievements:

The Learner Development SIG continued to fulfill its obligations to its members by providing forums, both in print and in person, to discuss, research, and share various facets of learner development. Our role as coordinators has been to support the teams that are responsible for the different areas of the SIG, communicate with members, and represent the SIG and its members at JALT national executive meetings. We would like to highlight some of the SIG's major achievements from November 2016 to November 2017:

- As of October 2017, the SIG has 223 members, an increase of seven since the last AGM at JALT2016. The Membership Team continues to improve the process for contacting new, renewing, and lapsed members, as well as revising the contents of emails. In addition, the SIG welcomed a new Publicity Chair, Nicole Gallagher, in February 2017, who began sending a bi-monthly news update directly to members. The Grants Team helped to award grants to members for three conferences and one research project, totaling 155,000 yen.
- In July 2017, we received an annual grant from JALT National totalling 219,276 yen, and an additional 52,338 from PanSIG shared revenue in August. This, along with the creation of a conservative budget in 2016 by the Treasurer, has left the SIG with approximately 300,000 yen in its account in addition to the 200,000 yen safety net the SIG is required to maintain by JALT.
- The SIG has continued to provide opportunities for members to meet in person to share and discuss learner development. The Program Team organized forums at JALT2017, PanSIG, and JALTCALL, featuring 25 speakers. The Tokyo Get-Together Team held six Get Togethers since the previous AGM at JALT2016, typically with 11 participants, and encouraged collaborative groups to form and discuss over several get-togethers and start a shared project, with meeting notes kept in a public Google Doc. The Kansai Get Together successfully held their second Kansai to the World Student Conference in June. Through the use of a new mailing system, they have been able to welcome new participants to each of their monthly meetings.

In addition, the SIG co-sponsored an event with FLP SIG and Nagoya JALT in March.

- The SIG continues to provide supportive forums for publishing on Learner Development. Learning Learning, under the direction of Arnold Arao since October 2016, published two regular issues and one special issue, which featured 9 short reflective articles with reader responses from the JALT2016 Learner Development Forum on Learner Transformation as Personal Maturation and the 2016 Creating Community: Learning Together 3 informal afternoon conference. The LL Team has also revised the contributor guidelines and created an online system for submitting contributions. The Learner Development Steering Group coordinated with the editors of LDJ vol1, Darren Elliott and Hugh Nicoll, to prepare for its official release ahead of the AGM. The Group also established editorial teams and timelines for volumes 2 & 3 of the LDJ, expanded Review Network to 11, and clarified review guidelines. Finally, the online home of the LDJ is being constructed and managed by Darren Elliott, who has agreed to take on the role of webmaster.

2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda)

- a. Confirm 2017-2018 committee members.
 - i. Needed: coordinators, co-treasurer, LL Grant Awardees Essays Coordinator, Kansai GT co-organizer
- b. Use of existing funds
 - i. 75,000 one-time grant to Hugh Nicoll for 25 years of uncollected web-related fees.
 - ii. 70,000 yen to sponsor member Chika Hayashi as a plenary speaker at ILA2018 in Kobe.
- c. Hosting for LD SIG and LD Journal websites
 - i. Committee position email accounts
- d. Restructuring of LD grants
- e. 2019/2020 mini-conference with JACET/CUE on Exploratory Practice/Inclusive Practitioner Research
- f. Attracting more participants to forums
- g. Themes for LDJ vols 4 & 5
- h. Managing LD Get-Togethers

3. Recommendations:

4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget:

5. Goals for 2017-2018:

6. Team members/roles for 2017-2018

Koki Tomita (Tokyo) and Yoshi Nakai (Kansai)

2. Treasury Team

(submitted by Huw Davies)

1. Achievements: We are in the black. Also we received over 1,000/member from JALT this year, and I think it's safe to budget for this amount of income next year.
2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda) We have approximately 300,000 to spend. What is the most effective way to spend it that will benefit our community?
3. Recommendations: Not to keep large sums of money sitting in the bank. We can and should use it.
4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget: Please ask the attendees at the conference about any expected expenses or revenues. Any books to be printed? Should we give any money out as PR, like to PanSIG?
5. Goals for 2017-2018: Have a representative at the big JALT conference - sorry I can't make it this year.
6. Team members/roles for 2017-2018: Please find someone to help me!!! I'm finding it tough to keep on top of this (so many other things going on) and our monthly report hasn't been on time or complete for a long time. Otherwise, Huw to soldier on.

Proposed 2017-2018 Budget (**Mathew will input expenses as team reports are completed**, also it would help if anyone can think of any revenues that may change from this year)

Item	Description	Proposed	Allocated (2016-2017)
Tokyo GT room fees		20000	25,000
Kansai GT room fees		20000	15,000
Web (LDJ)	hosting/domain reg	15000	20,000
Grant Fund	A single fund with a single date for all grant-funded opportunities	195,000	195,000

Admin	Conference postage, printing, etc.	10,000	10,000
Misc	Misc (it's useful to keep this in there)	10,000	20,000
One-time Grant	Hugh Nicoll	75,000	0
ILA2018 Sponsorship	Chika Hayashi	70,000	0
	Total	415,000	257,000

3. Membership Team

(submitted by Ann Flanagan)

1. Achievements:
 - Membership increased slightly (223) compared to October 2016 (216).
 - Compared to last year, updating and sending out letters went smoothly.
 - The membership update procedures were updated to make transitions smoothly.
 - Designed an online questionnaire for those members that let their membership lapsed but haven't received any responses.
2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda)
 - Need to try to get the letters sent out earlier in the month.
 - Have not been able to access the SIG's Membership List for a while since JALT changed it over to a new Membership Database. Hopefully it will be resolved by November.
 - The Membership Due Dates have changed from the end of the year to it seems when the member joins. Wondering if we need to change the system of 1 month and 2 month letters.
3. Recommendations:
 - Bring a friend to any of the LD SIG events. Maybe that will increase our membership more.
4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget: None
5. Goals for 2017-2018:
 - Want to send out a questionnaire to the LD SIG members to see how we can improve our SIG and make it stronger.
 - Try to increase the number of members who attend the Kansai Get Together Group.
 - Revise Welcome, 2 month renewal and 1 month renewal letters.
 - Continue regular mail-outs, list updates, and personal communication when necessary.
 - Set a goal of how many members we would like to have join our SIG by a certain date.
 - Promote the LD SIG at different events.

6. Team members/roles for 2017-201

Ann Flanagan (Chair) Barrie Mattie (LD SIG Membership Team)

4. Programmes Team

(submitted by Blair Barr)

1. Achievements:
 - We managed to line up a small but great group of presenters for the PanSIG and JALTCALL despite a late start to promoting these events.
 - We have 16 presenters lined up for the forum at JALT2017 in Tsukuba
2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda)
 - Although we had a good group of presenters for the two smaller conferences at PanSIG and JALTCALL, we did not have many attendees at these forums. This resulted in a quick adaptation of the presentation plans so as to not have presenters standing by posters alone for extended periods. It would be nice if we could find a way to attract more participants to these forums.
3. Recommendations:
 - The programmes team should always be thinking ahead to the next calendar year when JALT International approaches.
 - PanSIG takes place relatively early in the calendar year, so we should be getting members thinking of their potential opportunities to present well in advance. In 2018, PanSIG will be in Tokyo (Toyo University), JALTCALL will be in Nagoya, and JALT2018 will be in Shizuoka. It would be great if we could attract more presenters with the more central locations in 2018.
 - It is not clear to us if these events are being promoted verbally at Hiroshima and Kansai get-togethers, so we would like to have a clearer communication line between the programs team and those get-together groups.
4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget:
 - A box of stationery for the programs team would be helpful
 - Printing forum flyer to share with others while we are at conferences. (Perhaps one way to attract more attendees)
5. Goals for 2017-2018:
 - Better promotion for all the events at an earlier stage, using Facebook and the LD News mailing list more to inform members not only of submission deadlines, but also the events themselves. We resolved access to the Facebook and LD News mailing list relatively late last year, and this may have been a factor in the small turn outs for PanSIG and JALTCALL.
6. Team members/roles for 2017-2018
 - Blair Barr (program chair for 2018), with Rob Morel, and, until PanSIG, Daniel Hooper

5. Publicity Team

(submitted by Nicole Gallagher)

- Achievements:

- From April 2017, we created a monthly/bi-monthly LD SIG News & Events email through collaboration with various SIG committee members. This mailing includes information about SIG news and events and reaches all SIG members through the listserv.
- Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda) I have not been able to set up a regular schedule to ensure that the email is sent out at the beginning of every month.
- Recommendations: Set up a schedule to compile the information a week before the end of the preceding month.
- Items for the 2017-2018 budget: None
- Goals for 2017-2018: send out an LD SIG News & Events email every month.
- Team members/roles for 2017-2018
 - Nicole Gallagher (organizes the monthly LD SIG News & Events email)

6. Learning Learning

(Arnold Arao, Andy Barfield, Chika Hayashi, Hugh Nicoll, Daniel Hougham, Tokiko Hori, Yoshio Nakai, Koki Tomita)

1. Achievements:
 - a. Published three issues in 2017 (including a summer special issue, with reader responses to short reflective articles: This involved a large number of new members of the SIG from 2016, as well as 3 new members (Dominic Edsall, Trevor Rachiura, Sean Toland) working as co-editors;
 - b. Expanded the editorial team with Tokiko Hori, Daniel Hougham, Yoshio Nakai, and Koki Tomita joining;
 - c. Discussed and agreed new guidelines for contributors about formats and lengths of writing suitable for Learning Learning (see below). The intention is to make writing for *Learning Learning* transparently accessible to LD SIG members as we want as many SIG members as possible to contribute to LL. The formats and lengths are now explicitly different from the longer research papers that *The Learner Development Journal* (LDJ) focuses on. The LL formats and lengths also provide clearer possibilities for exploratory, reflective, and dialogic, texts, grouped as genres under these headings:
 - Short articles on issues to do with learner/teacher development and autonomy / 学習者と教師の成長・自律に関する小論
 - Reflective writing about learning for learner/teacher development and autonomy / 学習に関する省察 — 学習者と教師の成長・自律を目指して
 - Members' voices / メンバーの声
 - Research & reviews / 研究 & レビュー
 - Free space / フリー・スペース

See [here](#) for more details, with the new Online Contribution Form developed by Daniel Hougham.

 - e. Received quite a lot of submissions this year, involving a large number of different writers for each issue:

Learning Learning 24(1): 26 writers

Learning Learning 24(2): 32 writers

Learning Learning 24(3): 23 writers

(24 articles published YTD with 12+ articles in the winter issue; compared to 20 total articles in 2016 and 18 in 2015 - "article" refers here to a variety of different writing, including short reflective articles, reader responses, grant awardee essays, book reviews, conference reports and reflections, members' voices, SIG news updates, get-together reports, among other things);

Our thanks go to everyone who has written for Learning Learning in the last year.

- f. waiting on traffic data (access to articles) from Hugh but that looks to have risen as well.
2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda)
 - a. Have had a lot of contributions from different members of the LD SIG, but one challenge is bringing in new people to the editorial team who stay longer than a specific special issue. With the increase in the number of writers contributing to LL it would be nice to secure more volunteers who can commit to a longer time frame (understandable this is difficult with schedules and workloads but it is on our wish list)
 - b. With the great work that Nicole has been doing with the email publicity announcements, and the upcoming launch of the Learner Development Journal, as well as the development in the SIG regarding communication and publications (hats off to the Publication Team) it might be good to determine the roles each publication should play within the wider communications strategy. For our part, the LL editorial team will continue to look at keeping Learning Learning distinct from publicity announcements and the LDJ.
 - c. Related to 2.a, we will need to find a replacement for Yoko Sakurai who stepped down as Grant Awardees Essays Coordinator. A big thank you to Yoko Sakurai for coordinating SIG grant awardee essays the last two years. Arnold Arao will be taking on her responsibilities temporarily until new people can step up to fill this role.
 - d. The editorial team is still developing its ways of working together, i.e., different team members need to log consistently what they do in a shared Google doc, upload files to shared folders in Box in a timely manner, and have an agreed schedule for the finalisation of each issue of Learning Learning. These actions might help to improve the way that we work collaboratively as an editorial team.
 - e. There has also been some discussion of email accounts for specific teams on the LD committee, and whether any LD team email account belongs to/should belong to an individual or is/ should be shared/co-owned among the respective team. Some wider discussion of this seems warranted at the present time.
 3. Recommendations:
 1. Nicole is doing a fabulous job with the LD Newsletter. So much so that there is overlap in some of the information we publish (LD Connect, LD events etc.). Both Nicole's publicity announcements and LL and source local and area information for events, it may be better to keep events info to the publicity announcements and maintain LL as a forum for publications with spotlights on JALT sponsored conferences (i.e., PanSIG, JALT CALL, JALT INTL) as well as associated conferences such as JASAL, ILA20018, AILA World Congress as they are specifically related to learner development and autonomy, and IAFOR(?).
 2. Developing concrete roles and responsibilities so that volunteers can easily "fit" into tasks rather than having people "help out with ~". In this way, perhaps we can keep volunteers longer.

4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget: N/A
5. Goals for 2017-2018:
 - a. 2018 Special Issue focussing on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) (TBD)
 - b. Related to 5a, Arnold spoke with Christina Gkonou about submitting a short piece based on her recent work with Sarah Mercer about the importance of SEL skills for English Language Learning teachers; she will be presenting at JALT2017.
 - c. 2018 marks volume #25 so it would nice to aim for a “Special” Special Issue. Possibilities include (a) inviting past editors and contributors (?) to write and reflect on their experiences with LD and LL and their observations on education, (b) reprinting different writings from LL over the previous 25 years, (c) other ideas that emerge from discussions about how to celebrate LL’s 25th year.
6. Team members/roles for 2017-2018 (see note 2.c Unresolved Challenges above but in the meantime the following can be used as a reference):

Editor, Layout & Design, and LD Grants Essay Coordinator(temp): Arnold Arao

Members’ Voices and Editor: Andy Barfield

Japanese Translation Coordinator and Editor: Chika Hayashi

Japanese Translators / Editors / Reviewers: Tokiko Hori, Koki Tomita, Yoshio Nakai

Digital Content and Editor / Reviewer: Daniel Hougham

Learning Learning Webmaster: Hugh Nicoll

7. Learner Development Journal Steering Group

Submitted by Andy Barfield, Alison Stewart, and Tim Ashwell

1. Achievements

- We’ve tried to keep contact with Darren and Hugh through the year and had discussions with them by email and Skype about different questions to do with the production of the first issue of the Learner Development Journal (LDJ). The first issue includes six papers, an intro by Darren and Hugh, and a concluding commentary by Alice Chik. Malcolm Swanson is doing the layout for the LDJ, and Darren has agreed to be the webmaster for the LDJ website. A big thank you to Darren and Hugh, the authors, and Malcolm, for all their work on the first issue.
- We have also kept in contact with Masuko, Patrick, and Chika as Issue 2 has been coming together. There are seven papers for Issue 2, with a contribution by Ann Burns (Aston University, England, and University of New South Wales, Australia) to come. The editors are expecting to see the first full drafts around now. A warm thank you to Chika, Masuko, and Patrick (and authors) for their ongoing work on the second issue.

- For Issue 3, Jim Ronald, Yoshio Nakai and Christina Gkonou have formed an editorial team with a thematic focus on *Identities and Transitions*. They are now preparing a Call for Papers for the third issue. A big thank you to Christina, Jim, and Yoshio as they work on Issue 3 together.

Issue 1 Visualizing Learner Development

Editors: Darren Elliott & Hugh Nicoll

Publication date: November 2017

Issue 2 Qualitative Research into Learner Development

Editors: Chika Hayashi, Masuko Miyahara, & Patrick Kiernan

Publication date: October 2018

Issue 3 Learner Identities and Transitions

Editors: Christina Gkonou, Jim Ronald, & Yoshio Nakai

Publication date: October 2019

- Working with three editorial teams at different stages in the process of each issue has helped us become clearer about the general timeline for producing an issue of the LDJ:

Year	Period	Stage	Who / Role	Collaborative Process
YEAR 1	July-Sept	ONE	<i>Co-editors</i>	Draft and develop a Call for Proposals/ Contributions / CFP/C
YEAR 2	Oct-Jan	TWO	<i>Potential contributors</i>	CfP/C sent out to various lists (co-editors may respond to inquiries and give feedback on draft proposals)
YEAR 2	February	THREE	<i>Co-editors</i>	Review of proposals and selection
YEAR 2	March - April	FOUR	<i>Contributor to contributor / Editors to contributors</i>	Research development: Puzzles, questions, outlines, plans, ideas
YEAR 2	July - Sept	FIVE	<i>Contributor to contributor</i>	Peer sharing and feedback on complete first drafts
YEAR 2	Oct - Nov	SIX	<i>Review Network to contributors</i>	Reviewer feedback (with possible assistance from eds)
YEAR 2- YEAR 3	Dec-Feb	SEVEN	<i>Editors to contributors</i>	Editor feedback; re-drafting (with possible assistance from reviewers; could involve multiple drafts)

YEAR 3	March	EIGHT	<i>Contributors to eds.</i>	Final draft
YEAR 3	April-July	NINE	<i>(a) Editors & Review Network</i>	Proofreading; abstracts in English and Japanese; key words; bios
			<i>(b) Editors</i>	Writing introduction piece
			<i>(c) Guest expert(s)</i>	Writing closing commentary
			<i>[(d) Book reviewers</i>	Writing relevant reviews]
YEAR 3	July-Sept	TEN	<i>Design and layout</i>	Finalisation for publication
YEAR 3	October	ELEVEN	<i>Website team</i>	Publication
YEAR 3	Post-publication	TWELVE	Feedback from parties involved	Review

- We also confirmed Guidelines (see below) for the Review Network (RN) for Issue 2 of the journal and expanded RN membership to 11 (Paul Beaufait, Steve Brown, Paul Collett, Ann Mayeda, Fumiko Murase, Jo Mynard, Diane Nagatomo, Ted O'Neill, Colin Rundle, Akiko Takagi, and Katherine Thornton, with Chika Hayashi stepping back from the RN for Issue 2).

Review Network Guidelines

- 1. Interest** *Does the paper catch the reader's interest? Why (not)?*
- 2. Audience** *Does the paper address peers (teacher-researchers and researchers) interested in learner development issues?*
- 3. Context** *In what ways does the paper create a clear picture of particular learners or particular groups of learners with reference to the learner development issue(s) that the paper focuses on?*
- 4. Voice** *Does the paper communicate to the reader a clear authorial voice, as well as include other voices (e.g., learners, colleagues, cited work) about the issue(s) explored in the paper?*
- 5. Problematising stance** *In what ways does the paper raise interesting and relevant questions about the issue(s) it focuses on, without being descriptive and distant?*
- 6. Specific and clear focus** *Does the paper develop a specific focus of inquiry, address and explore this with clarity throughout?*
- 7. Reflective sense of learning** *In what ways does the paper construct and reflect on a process of learning by the author and the participants involved in the research about the issue(s) that is/are focused on?*
- 8. Multi-perspectives** *In what ways does the paper attempt to examine the question(s)/ puzzle(s) /issue(s) that it focuses on from alternative perspectives, rather than from (a single) conventional viewpoint(s)?*

9. Knots Does the paper avoid easy answers and try to unravel knots that the writer encounters in the practice, theory, and inquiry? How?

10. Criticality By the end, has the paper drawn out key issues, re-framed these, and raised new questions for the reader to take away and consider?

- Over the summer, we conducted e-mail interviews with the editors of Issues 1, 2, and 3, and the resulting articles are due to be published in Learning Learning shortly. We hope these interviews will familiarise LD SIG members better with the LDJ and encourage them to take part in the future as authors and editors.
- We also had an extended discussion among ourselves with all three editorial teams about which languages the LDJ should feature for abstracts and keywords (-> English and Japanese as the default, another language if writers prefer), and which languages the website should feature (-> English).
- More recently we have been trying to work through questions to do with finalising Issue 1, deciding the web location for the journal, compiling texts about the journal for the website, and understanding how to get an ISSN for the journal.
- Take-away: Three editorial teams, an expanded Review Network, and the widening involvement of SIG members as contributors and of authors internationally. We are looking forward to the (official? unofficial?) launch of Issue 1 ahead of JALT2017. Quite when exactly, though, we don't know. See Unresolved Challenges (Agenda).

2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda): Two unresolved challenges are:

- (a) Deciding the journal website and webmastering - this has been a long ongoing discussion since February this year, with changes along the way in the webmaster, the location of the website, and unresolved questions about host servicing conditions. We are still not fully clear about these at the time of writing in mid-October. It should be easier for future issues (!), but our best recommendation as of October 14th is to launch the LDJ on a platform under Darren's direct control so that the launch is possible ahead of JALT2017, and then decide later whether to stay with this arrangement, or migrate the journal to the JALT server. Migrating the whole LD website ahead of JALT2017 to the JALT server is simply not practical, in our humble opinion, if the LDJ is to be launched in time.
- (b) ISSN for the LDJ! Without a final decision about (a), we cannot apply for an ISSN via the JALT Central Office for the LDJ. As of October 14th, time is getting very tight for this ahead of JALT2017.

3. Recommendations:

- (a) The JSG should check in with each editorial team every 2-3 months or so, allowing for variations in people's schedules and busyness.
- (b) Editors should keep private the names of contributing authors and not share them with the JSG.

- (c) The JSG could develop an ongoing discussion with editorial terms and RN members about the Review Network guidelines and what these may entail for comments to, and interactions with, writers about developing their writing.
- (d) Launch the journal website without having to migrate the whole LD website first.
- (e) LDJ website management should be done by at least two people, so that shadowing and shared learning are built in from the beginning.
- (f) The JSG should continue working with the LDJ web team closely.
- (g) The JSG should continue to report to the wider SIG committee every few months.

4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget: 15,000 yen Some money will be needed for LDJ website costs. At the time of writing (10/14) the host platform and server have not been decided, so the exact cost is not clear.

5. Goals for 2017-2018: We discussed possible themes and ideas for Issue 4 and 5 of the Journal and came up with rough drafts of CfPs for the following:

- (a) Issue 4: Whose Autonomy? Conversations about Learner Development (ILA Japan Conference-related)
- (b) Issue 5: Exploratory Practice? Inclusive Practitioner Research? (AILA ReN: Exploratory Practice/ Inclusive Practitioner Research-related).

However, upon reflection, we thought that it might be better for these to be ad-hoc publications separate from the LDJ that interested individuals or groups could gravitate towards. We thus need to develop new themes and find new editorial teams for Issues 4 and 5 of the LDJ, and we hope to be talking about this with people at JALT2017 to see what interest there is.

6. Team members/roles for 2017-2018: Darren will join the Journal Steering Group and Hugh the Review Network. Alison, Andy and Tim will stay in the JSG for the next year and try to bring one or two more people on board and help them fully understand the process of what the JSG does. We see this as an ongoing process so that the membership of the Steering Group develops and rotates on a regular basis and more people can become involved in running the Journal. We also hope to have at least one new person join Darren in managing the website for the LDJ.

8. Web Team

(submitted by)

1. Achievements:
 - (a) I have been keeping the ld-sig.org web site up-to-date over the last year, and assisted other members of the committee in updating their pages and menu items. I have also served as a proofreader/editor and the upload coordinator for *Learning Learning*, and served as administrator for our SIG mailing lists.
2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda)
 - (a) Finding a person to replace serve as web administrator for the SIG, ideally a team, is

the biggest challenge for the immediate future. In the meantime, because we will also need to come to a collective decision re: where and how to host the SIG's home page, as well as the new LD-SIG Journal, I plan on continuing in my role as web administrator so as to assist members of the new team

3. Recommendations:
4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget:
5. Goals for 2017-2018:
6. Team members/roles for 2017-2018

9. Grants Team

(submitted by Kristen Sullivan)

1. Achievements:

- a) The grants were advertised via the SIG homepage (<http://ld-sig.org/grants/>), mailing list, membership letters and the SIG News & Events mailout, and the results were communicated to SIG members via the mailing list.
- b) A list of past recipients, together with links to the articles they contributed to Learning Learning, was added to the SIG homepage:
<http://ld-sig.org/grants/ld-sig-grant-past-recipients/>
- c) The following grants were offered/awarded:

PanSIG Conference Grant - 1 x 40,000 yen - 3 applicants - Recipient: Farrah Hasnain

JALT CALL Conference Grant - 1 x 40,000 yen - 2 applicants - Recipient: Daniel Hougham

Research Grant - 1 x 25,000 yen - 1 applicant - Recipient: Arnold Arao

Project Grant - 1 x 20,000 yen - 1 applicant - No recipients

JALT International Conference Grant - 1 x 50,000 yen - 1 applicant - Recipient: Imogen

Custance

So far there have been no inquiries or applications for the Subscription and Membership grants.

2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda) The issues we faced this year include:

- a) What we have seen over the last couple of years is that while some grants are applied for by multiple members, other grants only have one or sometimes zero applications. The trend as to which grants have more or less applicants changes year by year (for example there were zero applicants for the PANSIG conference grant in 2016 but three in 2017).
- b) How to deal with applications from previous grant recipients: should the fact that an applicant has received grants in the past, and the timing of the most recently received grant, be taken into consideration during the review process?

3. Recommendations:

- a) Instead of offering several specific grants (i.e. PANSIG conference grant x 1, JALT CALL conference grant x 1, International JALT conference grant x 1, project grants x 2, research grant x 1) with their own individual budgets (40,000 yen, 40,000 yen, 50,000 yen, 20,000 yen x 2, 25,000 yen), have one overall grant budget and allow members to make an application

for the grant that they need (i.e. purpose and amount).

- i) The purposes for the grants should still be limited to those currently on offer (JALT conferences which traditionally have an LD SIG forum--PANSIG, JALT CALL, International, research, projects).
 - ii) A maximum grant amount should be set (i.e. 40,000 (or 50,000?) yen for conferences, 25,000 yen for research, 20,000 yen for projects); however, applicants can request a grant for less than this amount.
 - iii) Applicants will need to more specifically give the reasoning for the amount that they are requesting in their applications.
 - iv) Applications will still be judged on merit basis based on the criteria outlined on the SIG website.
 - v) There will only be one grant application deadline which will be early on in the year to be in time for the PANSIG conference.
 - vi) It is hoped that this change will make better use of the SIG's funds by ensuring that the grants are better meeting the needs of members.
 - vii) It should be noted that this idea was first suggested by Joel Laurier at the 2016 LD SIG AGM.
- b) No longer offer Subscription or Membership "Grants" (note that these are not actually grants but membership trials for JALT/non-JALT members not currently members of the SIG) as there have been zero applications/inquiries over at least the last two years.
4. **Items for the 2017-2018 budget:** We suggest setting the grant budget at around 195,000 yen, the same as for 2016-2017.
5. **Goals for 2017-2018:**
- a) Decide what to do concerning Recommendation a) above.
 - b) Continue to advertise the grants, not only among current members but among potential members, as the grants are definitely one way to attract new members. This will require cooperation with Membership (which is already going smoothly) and other teams.
6. **Team members/roles for 2017-2018:** Jenny Morgan, Kristen Sullivan, Satomi Yoshimuta

10. Tokyo Get-Together

Submitted by Andy Barfield, Ian Hurrell, and Jenny Morgan, with Ken Ikeda

1. Achievements: The Tokyo get-togethers aim to provide a flexible, supportive, and convivial environment for exploring learner development according to people's particular interests and concerns. We welcome the participation of teachers from diverse teaching contexts – including elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, university, distance learning & graduate studies, and language school settings – and teachers teaching languages other than English.

After holding the Tokyo Get-togethers at Otsuma Women's University for 5 years, the get-togethers moved to Rikkyo University Ikebukuro campus from April 2017. This year we have tried to focus on building continuity between get-togethers by encouraging the creation of collaborative groups to meet and discuss over several get-togethers and start a shared project. We also tried to follow a

more explicit structure for running the April to June get-togethers and have discussed at length what scaffolding is appropriate for structuring each get-together.

To further encourage continuity between get-togethers, each group created their own Google Doc to record the content of their discussions and develop together a narrative of their collaboration that they might refer to from one get-together to another. Links to the groups' Google Docs have been published in the general write-up of the get-together on the LD website so that they can be viewed publicly (see <http://ld-sig.org/2017-tokyo-get-togethers/>).

The number of "repeat attendees" has fluctuated from one get-together to the next; attendance has been typically around 11 for most sessions, dropping in June, then coming back up in September (January: 14, February: 11, April: 11, May: 11, June: 4, September: 15). We understand that LD SIG members have a strong interest in discussing learner development issues, but many are increasingly busy and find it hard to attend get-togethers regularly. This has made it difficult to cultivate collaboration and continuity between get-togethers, which is the primary purpose of the meetings. As a result, we decided to put on hold the December *Creating Community: Learning Together 4* (CCLT4) informal afternoon conference.

2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda): *How to create better continuity of participation and collaboration over the year:* This is an ongoing challenge, so we are not sure whether it is ever likely to be resolved! The paradox is that, with fluctuating and variable participation, it is difficult to develop together research projects over the year. Perhaps a *blended approach* for the get-togethers might help here. We could try combining face-to-face get-togethers in the first few sessions of the year (say January, February, April, and May) with decentralised small-group meetings from May to September, and whole-group meetings in October and December. This might lead to better collaboration over the year. We are currently discussing this and other ideas for the 2018 get-togethers. We would love to hear from the Hiroshima and Kansai groups how they try to deal with continuity and collaboration questions.

3. Items for the 2017-2018 budget: 20,000 JPY We are not sure whether we will be continuing the get-togethers at Rikkyo University or returning to Otsuma Women's University, or using a combination of both sites. While Rikkyo does not charge for room rental, there are limitations on room availability in the second half of the year, so it may be necessary to use Otsuma too (which does charge).

4. Goals for 2017-2018: Trying to develop a more flexible blended approach for the get-togethers in 2018 (see above). Remain open-minded about holding CCLT4 or not.

5. Team members/roles for 2017-2018: Andy, Ian, and Jenny are planning to continue. Ken will rejoin after his sabbatical (April 2018). We welcome others to the coordination team so that we can share different ideas, discuss, and learn together.

11. Hiroshima Get-Together

(submitted by)

1. Achievements:
2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda)
3. Recommendations:
4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget:
5. Goals for 2017-2018:
6. Team members/roles for 2017-2018

12. Kansai Get-Together

(Submitted by Agnes Patko)

1. Achievements:

After the very successful first Kansai to the World Conference in the Autumn of 2016 the group decided to organise the event again. This year it was held in June as the venue had already been booked by one of the SIG members for another event, which had been cancelled. As result, the rooms became available for us. We received positive feedback from both presenters and participants of the conference.

Apart from this, we have held our meetings every month at a community centre in Kyoto and provided continuous professional support to each other . Due to our new email communication system, we managed to inform all members of the SIG in the area about our activities. We have had new participants almost every month.

2. Unresolved Challenges: (Agenda)

The biggest challenge is to attract people to the get-togethers. Even though we get new participants, it is hard to keep them active. Compared to people in the Tokyo area, people in Kansai are less willing to take an hour or longer train ride to attend the get-togethers.

Discussing current issues related to teaching does not seem to satisfy members. We have been talking about joint research plans but owing to various factors, such as different teaching contexts and research interests, and inconsistent participation in meetings, we have not managed to make any concrete decision yet. Participants have expressed interest in holding mini presentations or workshops in which they can introduce a classroom activity or report about their most recent research results.

Organising the student conference was much easier and quicker than last year; however, we feel that if discussions about that take a considerable time of the get-together, it may prevent a number of people from attending due to a lack of interest in the event. We also wonder when and how we should organise the event next year. Although, there is an obvious student interest, we do not want to concentrate solely on event organisation, yet regular get-togethers do not seem to trigger active involvement in the group.

Finally, having talked to the regular participants, I propose that bi-monthly meetings with a set theme or agenda would be more successful in terms of participation. We could send out a call for presentations and/or workshops at the beginning of the year.

3. Recommendations:
4. Items for the 2017-2018 budget:

20,000 JPN for Kansai to the World Student Conference for room rental and refreshments.

5. Goals for 2017-2018:
 - Attract more people and make them regular participants
 - Organise Kansai to the World 3
 - Hold regular presentation/ workshops
 - Joint research

6. Team members/roles for 2017-2018

Agnes is going to continue as coordinator and she is looking for someone to join her.

13. Committee Members at large